

1	2	3
Dehradun Region		
50. Bijnor	218	
51. Chamoli	124	
52. Dehradun	138	
53. Ghaziabad	172	
54. Meerut	242	
55. Muzaffarnagar	195	
56. Pauri	331	
57. Saharanpur	95	
58. Tehri	182	
59. Uttarkashi	108	
60. Haridwar	60	
Lucknow Region		
61. Lucknow	116	
62. Faizabad	520	
63. Raibareilly	200	
64. Sultanpur	398	
65. Sitapur	330	
66. Barabanki	276	
G.Total	13451	
West Bengal		
1. North 24-Pgs	419	
2. South 24-Pgs	716	
3. Calcutta	x	
4. Purulia	394	
5. Midnapore	1244	
6. Howrah	243	
7. Hooghly	371	
8. Bankura	395	
9. Nadia	341	
10. Burdwan	562	
11. Birbhum	395	
12. Murshidabad	472	
13. Malda	290	
14. North Dinajpur	324	
15. South Dinajpur		
16. Cooch Behar	304	
17. Darjeeling	147	
18. Japaiguri	208	
19. North	17	
20. East	78	
21. West	23	
22. South	42	
23. Andaman	56	
24. Nicobar	14	
Total	7055	

Computerisation of Telephone Bills

2505. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the computerisation of telephone bills has been introduced in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction so far;

(c) the target period fixed for the computerisation of telephone bills in all the metropolitan cities; and

(e) the steps taken to provide proper training to the staff for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Computerised billing is already in vogue in all Metropolitan Districts.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above

(d) Staff is being trained both in house & through outside training agencies.

Euro Issues by VSNL

2506. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to allow Videsh Sanchar Nigam (VSNL) to float Euro-issues for foreign currency loan;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been laid down in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). Sir, there is no proposal for permitting VSNL to float Euro-issue for foreign currency loan. However, a proposal for raising additional equity for VSNL in international market is under consideration of the Government.

Beedi Workers in Mysore

2507. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) total number of Beedi and Cigar workers during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the houses have been constructed for these workers during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the welfare measures proposed to be taken for the welfare of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) A statement showing the estimated number of beedi workers, at present, in the country, State-wise, is attached.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Several Schemes in the Fields of health, housing, education and recreation are already being implemented by the Government for the welfare of beedi workers in the country.

STATEMENT

Statement showing estimated number of beedi workers in the country.

State	No. of beedi workers
Uttar Pradesh	4,50,000
Karnataka	3,55,000
Kerala	1,36,000
Andhra Pradesh	6,25,000
Tamilnadu	6,21,000
Rajasthan	1,00,000
Gujarat	50,000
Orissa	1,52,000
Madhya Pradesh	6,50,000
Bihar	3,92,000
Maharashtra	2,56,000
West Bengal	4,50,000
Assam	8,000
Tripura	5,000
Total	42,50,000

Effect on Steel Industry due to Hike in Petroleum

2508. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether hike in petroleum prices has affected the steel industry and likely to affect on steel producers;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made by the Ministry in this regard;

(c) whether the diesel price rise would result in increase cost of raw material and thereby make the finished products costlier;

(d) whether in view of this steel prices would go up;

(e) whether 85-90 per cent of the entire transport in the steel industry is handled through roads which would cost more; and

(f) if so, to what extent steel products will be affected due to this rise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The hike in the prices of petroleum products will affect the steel products.

(b) It has been assessed that due to hike in petroleum prices, the direct impact on public sector steel plants during 1996-97 will be about Rs. 71 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) At present the Government does not exercise any control over pricing of steel. The steel prices may however, go up to increase in prices of petroleum prices.

(e) and (f). Pricing of steel products will be affected to some extent. The impact on cost of production in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant for instance is likely to be about Rs.35/- per tonne of finished steel and Rs.5/- per tonne of pig iron.

[Translation]

Misbehaviour with Lady Passengers

2509. KUAMRI UMA BHARATI :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidence of misbehaviour with lady passengers on board on Air India flight by the crew members have come to light recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken against the guilty employees; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (f). No, Sir. However, an employee travelling on leave, allegedly misbehaved with a lady passenger on board. The employee has been placed under suspension and a disciplinary enquiry has been initiated against him.

Non Electronic Media

2510. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by his Ministry to strengthen the non-electronic media;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand and strengthen the field publicity organisation in the context of the coming into force of the Panchayati Raj and decentralisation of planning and implementation;